



November / December 2022  
**Nigeria Office**



# Nigeria Press Review

**25.11. – 02.12.2022**

---

## **Welcome to Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung's Nigeria Weekly Press Review**

The weekly press review seeks to explore and keep you informed on selected issues relating to politics, business and economy, insecurity, infrastructure and development, health related issues, new trends and matters bothering on the situation in Nigeria.

### **Content**

Minister of Interior Seeks Nigeria's Admission into G20 Group, African Union Charge INEC for Peaceful, Credible Election, Ministry of Information Issues Travel Advisory to Citizens Travelling to US, Europe

Minister of Finance Says Nigeria is not Poor, Underage Voters Raise Concerns on INEC'S Registration List, Federal High Court Sentences Inspector General of Police to Jail, Students at Primary Education Level to Receive Local Language as Language of Instruction, Minister of Justice Moves to Clear Self of Illegal Payment of Millions of Dollars

Insecurity: President Buhari Commits to Restore Political Stability and Security in West Africa, Nigeria Army Deploys 65 Officers for Peacekeeping Missions in Mali, Reviews Operational Strategy to Eliminate Criminal Groups

### **Minister of Interior Seeks Nigeria's Admission into G20 Group, African Union Charge INEC for Peaceful, Credible Election, Ministry of Information Issues Travel Advisory to Citizens Travelling to US, Europe**

The Federal Government has canvassed the full admission of the country into the Group of Twenty (G20). The Minister of Interior, Ogbeni Rauf Aregbesola, recently made the call in New Delhi, India, at an international event on counter-terrorism. Addressing his audience of international government officials, security experts and policymakers, Aregbesola stated that Nigeria was eminently qualified to be admitted due to its strategic position in global affairs. Furthermore, the minister listed the various contributions of Nigeria to international peace, security and development as other credentials that qualify the country to be admitted into the G20. He added that Nigeria's full membership of the G20 will be beneficial to the global body because of the pool of human resources that the nation has in abundance. [This Day Live News \(November 28<sup>th</sup>\)](#) reports.

The leader of the African Union (AU) pre-electoral political mission to the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), Phlumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, has stated that the AU was partnering INEC to support the election process. She expressed hope that the 2023 general election in the country will turn out very peaceful and credible. Welcoming the pre-electoral political mission, INEC Chairman Mahmood Yakubu observed that with well over 93 million voters, 1.4 million election duty staff and 700,000 election personnel in action across the country on the day of the election, conducting an election in Nigeria is a herculean task. Yakubu, however, noted that the commission is in a better position than it was four years ago on the eve of the 2019 general elections due in part to the lessons learned from the polls and various imputes from observation missions. Tony Ezimakor, [The Independent News \(November 28<sup>th</sup>\)](#) reports.

At a news conference in Abuja, the Minister of Information, Lai Mohammed, issued a travel advisory to its citizens traveling to the United States and Europe. He noted that the advisory was prompted by an attack on Nigerians in London and stealing their belongings, including passports. The government's attention had been drawn to the increasingly high rate of stolen belongings, especially money and international passports. Mohammed, therefore, warned Nigerians traveling to

Europe and the United States to take extra precautions to avoid being dispossessed of their belongings. Soni Daniel, [The Vanguard News \(November 28<sup>th</sup>\)](#) reports.

### **Minister of Finance Says Nigeria is not Poor, Underage Voters Raise Concerns on INEC'S Registration List, Federal High Court Sentences Inspector-General of Police to Jail, Students at Primary Education Level to Receive Local Language as Language of Instruction, Minister of Justice Moves to Clear Self of Illegal Payment of Millions of Dollars**

Presenting President Muhammadu Buhari's administration scorecard (2015-2023), Minister of Finance, Budget and National Planning Zainab Ahmed emphasized that Nigeria was not broke. She disclosed this while presenting the 2022 fiscal performance report for the governing period, saying that the Federal Government's total revenue was Naira 1.63 trillion, while the debt service needed Naira 1.94 trillion. However, Ahmed advised that urgent action was required to address revenue underperformance and expenditure efficiency at national and sub-national level. Furthermore, the Minister noted that Nigeria has not in any way defaulted on both its domestic and foreign debt repayments, adding that the country was not opting for debt relief. However, in his analysis of Nigeria's debt profile, Akinwumi Adesina, President of the African Development Bank, said the external debt levels stand at Naira 16.61 trillion or USD 40 billion. Therefore, he concluded that Nigeria needed help to tackle this debt burden. Desmond Okon, [The Cable News \(December 1<sup>st</sup>\)](#) reports.

The many cases of underage voters discovered on the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) voter register have raised questions and concerns about the commission's registration and technology ahead of the upcoming 2023 elections. However, Festus Okoye, National Commissioner of INEC, said the voters' register has been published so Nigerians can help revise it. In addition, experts have advised the government to acquire a central database that will differentiate age groups, adding that Nigerians should verify and authenticate underage voters during the election. However, political commentator Chinedu Onyegbula said the INEC system or structure meant to verify and ascertain the ages of people through proper identification had already been compromised. Meanwhile, a source in Nigerian police who pleaded to remain anonymous disclosed that to

achieve transparency in Nigerian elections, there must be a complete profile of every citizen in the country. Francis Onyemachi, [The Business Day \(November 28<sup>th</sup>\)](#) reports.

The Federal High Court in Abuja has sentenced the Inspector-General of Police (IGP), Usman Baba, to three months in prison for disregarding a 2011 court order. A former police officer who was forcefully retired from the Nigeria Police Force filed the suit to reverse the action in 2011. However, despite the Police Service Commission's recommendation to reinstate him into the Force, the IGP flagrantly declined to obey the order. As a result, the judge said Baba should be imprisoned for three months or until his office implements an order made by the court on 21 October 2011. In addition, the court ordered the police to pay Naira 10 million as damages to the former police officer for the unlawful, illegal and unconstitutional denial of his rights and privileges as a senior officer of the Nigeria Police Force from 1993 till date. Ameh Ejekwonyilo, [The Premium Times News \(November 29<sup>th</sup>\)](#) reports.

Minister of Education Adamu Adamu has revealed the Federal Executive Council's (FEC) approval of a new National Language Policy that will mandate the use of local languages as a language of instruction for primary school pupils, therefore removing English. "Henceforth, teaching in primary schools, the first six years of learning will be in the mother tongue", the minister said. Adamu added that the objective of the new policy was to promote and enhance the cultivation and use of all Nigerian languages. While the new policy has officially taken effect, it is more in principle, the minister added, as full implementation will only happen once more preparatory work has been done. [Al Jazeera News \(December 1<sup>st</sup>\)](#) reports.

The Attorney-General of the Federation, Abubakar Malami, has made moves to exonerate himself from the illegal payment of millions of dollars as part of the USD 418 million in Paris Club refund-related judgment debts. President Muhammadu Buhari, recently in August, during a Federal Executive Council (FEC) meeting, directed the Minister of Finance, Zainab Ahmed, to suspend plans to begin the deduction of the USD 418 million from the federation accounts allegedly owed to the contractors. However, documents showing millions of dollars released from the federation account in June and July, 2022, to some of the consultants have surfaced. A source in the presidency said the

latest letter by Malami claiming ignorance of various court cases on the payment of the fund and asking the Central Bank of Nigeria to release the money was a move to cover his illegal deals. [Sahara Reporters News \(December 1<sup>st</sup>\)](#) reports.

### **Insecurity: President Buhari Commits to Restore Political Stability and Security in West Africa, Nigeria Army Deploys 65 Officers for Peacekeeping Missions in Mali, Reviews Operational Strategy to Eliminate Criminal Groups**

At the opening of the 2022 2<sup>nd</sup> Ordinary Session of the Economic Community of West African State (ECOWAS) Parliament, President Muhammadu Buhari pledged Nigeria's commitment to restoring democratic rule to Mali, Guinea and Burkina-Faso as well as to ensure peace and political stability in the West African Sub-region. Furthermore, Buhari said Nigeria was committed to supporting ECOWAS institutions to ensure that the countries in the region all returned to constitutional rule. He also pledged his commitment to providing accessible, free, fair and credible polls in the 2023 general elections in Nigeria. Buhari further noted that the global economic downturn had deeply affected the economies of the sub-region and resulted in dire financial hardships for the citizens of the community. He urged ECOWAS parliamentarians to perform their responsibility of considering the community budget with diligence while bearing in mind the sacrifice of various countries in the payment of community levies. [News Agency of Nigeria \(November 28<sup>th</sup>\)](#) reports.

The Director of Peace Support Operations at the Army Headquarters, Brigadier-General Adetoro Bayode, has stressed the need to protect Africa as an integral part of the Army and is central to the country's defense policy. As part of its National Multidimensional Integrated Stabilisation Mission in Mali, 65 troops were deployed to the region. The troops had received three weeks of intensive training where they were tutored on using weapons to protect civilians, conflict-related sexual violence, child protection and sexual exploitation and abuse of skills from enabling them to operate in Mali. Bayode added that the Nigeria Army ensures security and stability in Africa with specific emphasis on the west African sub-region through collective security and contributing to international peace and security are central to the overall objectives of our country's national defence policy. John Gabriel, [The Daily Post \(November 26<sup>th</sup>\)](#) reports.

The Director of Army Public Relations, Brigadier-General Onyema Nwachukwu, has revealed that the Nigerian Army would review its operations to defeat terrorists, bandits, kidnappers, separatist groups and other criminal gangs terrorizing the peace in the country. However, he acknowledged that the fluidity of the threat situation requires dynamism to continually review their operational strategies. Furthermore, he said that the forth-

coming 2022 Chief of Army Staff annual conference, scheduled to hold in Sokoto State, would afford the Nigerian Army an avenue for a reappraisal of its administrative affairs, evaluate and comprehensively review ongoing operational engagements of the military in all theatres of operations across the six geo-political zones within the year, among other critical items. Molly Kilete, [The SUN News \(December 1<sup>st</sup>\)](#) reports.

### Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung e. V.

Marija Peran, Resident Representative  
Adams Adamu, Project Assistant

Nigeria Office

[www.kas.de/nigeria](http://www.kas.de/nigeria)

[www.facebook.com/kas.nigeria](https://www.facebook.com/kas.nigeria)

[marija.peran@kas.de](mailto:marija.peran@kas.de) / [adamu.adams@kas.de](mailto:adamu.adams@kas.de)



The text of this publication is published under a Creative Commons license: "Creative Commons Attribution- Share Alike 4.0 international" (CC BY-SA 4.0), <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0/legalcode>